

Girl Power! And Violence Prevention



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When you turn on the TV and hear stories about kids shooting kids at school it can make you feel scared and helpless. You want to help your child change things, but what can you do? PLENTY!

Have your child take a pledge. They too can make a difference by promising not to get involved in gun violence. Here is a sample pledge from Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E), a student-directed organization to prevent violence.

- 1. I will not support violence against any person or any physical or verbal abuse based on race, creed, or gender.*
- 2. I agree not to bring a gun or any weapon to school or to any school event.*
- 3. I will demonstrate respect for others and validate their concerns, encouraging those who provide positive role models for their peers*
- 4. I will tell my peers to seek adult assistance when conflict situations begin to get out of control.*
- 5. I will support protection and consolation for victims of violence.*
- 6. I will not carry another person's gun or weapon.*
- 7. I will oppose the use and glorification of violence in the media and our culture.*
- 8. If I see a gun or other weapon on campus or at a school event, I will alert an adult about its existence.*
- 9. I will be committed to nonviolent resolutions of conflict.*
- 10. I will practice respect and love for the earth and all creatures.*

By signing this commitment to peace, I pledge to support my peers in my community by examining my own actions and making every effort to practice nonviolence in my own life.

Make it real. Make two copies of the pledge and have your child sign them. Have them keep one copy for themselves and give the other to the most trusted adult in their life: a parent, a teacher, a minister or rabbi, an older sibling, a grandparent, a counselor, or someone else they trust and respect. The older adult can remind them of the importance of the promise and help them hold to it.

Get their school involved. Have your child work with their school government association or PTA to distribute copies of the pledge and encourage other students to sign it. They can celebrate the pledge with an all-school assembly celebrating their commitment to peace. Post a banner with a copy of the pledge in the school hallway. Ask fellow students to write notes on the banner ... or put up a bulletin board for students to write their thoughts and concerns about gun violence. Plant a tree in the schoolyard as a reminder of the pledge that students have made.

Each one teach one. Once your child has taken the pledge, have them talk to younger kids about their commitment to ending gun violence. They can visit an elementary school, a brownie troop, or sit down with younger siblings and talk about their commitment. Help show them they can be a real role model!

Take action. Students like your child have an important role to play in ensuring that your school is safe. Let your child know they are not too young to be part of the solution!

